

**Press Release**  
**Brian Lenihan T.D., Minister for Children**  
**launches the**  
**ISPAI Child Pornography Hotline Fourth Report**  
**March, 2007**

Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D., Minister for Children, today launched the Fourth Report of the Irish Hotline.

The Hotline is operated by the Internet Service Providers' Association of Ireland (ISPAI), as part of a self regulatory regime supervised by the Internet Advisory Board. The Hotline accepts and processes reports from the public in relation to illegal and harmful material on the internet, particularly in relation to child pornography. It works closely with the Garda Síochána and other Hotlines internationally to tackle child pornography on the internet.

**“Since the Hotline was established in 1999, there has been an enormous increase in internet usage in Ireland. The amount of serious child abuse images being reported has also grown year on year. These reports represented 79% of all reports to the Hotline in 2006. I am pleased to note that no report from the public in Ireland or from the 26 other Hotlines operated world wide, found that child pornography was either hosted in, or distributed from, Ireland. ”**

As Minister for Children, he said he was pleased to note that there was an increased willingness on the part of the public to report on illegal content such as child pornography. He encouraged everyone from teachers, to legislators, and above all parents to be ever vigilant and to take action when necessary. **“The internet is an important part of our lives today. It is a significant communication and education tool, particularly for young people. However, parental vigilance is vital for the protection of children from inappropriate material. If you become aware of illegal content, report it to the hotline at [www.hotline.ie](http://www.hotline.ie).”**

**Ends**